

House Republican Press Release

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Governor Signs Graduated License Bill



Legislation Introduced by Scribner Signed into Law

HARTFORD- Governor M. Jodi Rell has signed legislation introduced by Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield) which places restrictions on sixteen and seventeen-year-old drivers. Rep. Scribner has been the chief proponent of the legislation for the past four years. The measure finally won approval and will now become law.

The bill previously passed the Transportation Committee 28-1, passed the state House 118-23, and the state Senate 34-0.

The new law fine-tunes legislation that Representative Scribner initiated and was subsequently passed into law over the past few legislative sessions. It increases the mandated hours behind the wheel for driver training from eight hours to twenty hours, and eliminates restrictions on the age of parents who are passengers in a motor vehicle operated by a sixteen or seventeen-year old, but requires at least one of them to hold an operator's license. It also prohibits a sixteen or seventeen-year old who has an operator's license from driving between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless the person is driving for work or a school activity, or out of medical necessity. Exemptions are made for ambulance, fire and EMS personnel who are sixteen or seventeen years of age.

"I am pleased that Governor Rell has chosen to sign this bill," said **Representative Scribner**. "This measure will clearly make Connecticut roads safer both for new motorists who are just learning to drive, and for all other motorists who share the roads."

Statistics have demonstrated conclusively that the first few months of a new driver's licensure are critical, and is the period of time when a new driver is most likely to get into a fatal accident. Quite often, the other young occupants in their car distract these young new drivers. According to data compiled by the State Department of Transportation 16 and 17-year-old drivers are 14% more likely to cause a crash resulting in fatalities or injuries while transporting one passenger than while driving alone.

The new law takes effect October 1, 2005.